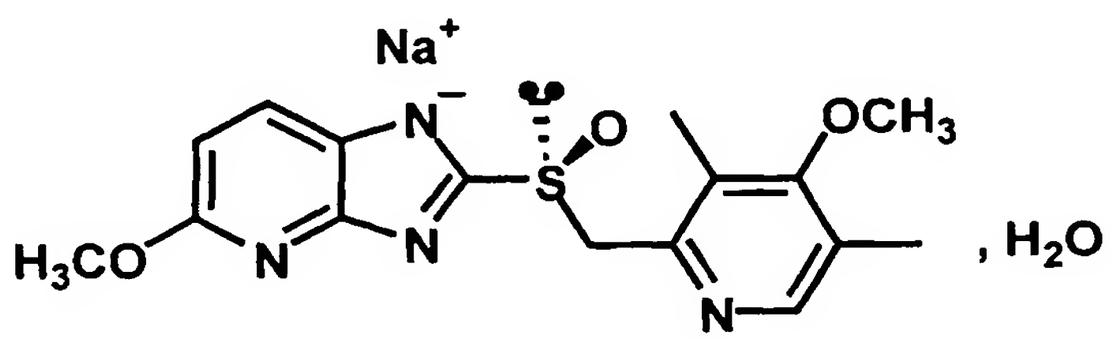
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) The monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole represented by the general formula (II) ~~here-after~~:



2. (Currently Amended) A concentrated solution of monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole according to claim 1, wherein the concentration in monohydrated salt is higher than or equal to 50 g/l.

3. (Original) A concentrated solution according to claim 2, wherein the concentration in monohydrated salt is higher than or equal to 100 g/l.

4. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole according to claim 1, associated to one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients and substrates.

5. (Original) A composition according to claim 4, wherein it is under the form of unitary doses containing from 10 to 80 mg of active principle.

6. (Original) A composition according to claim 5, wherein the unitary dose is comprised between 15 and 40 mg.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of digestive diseases comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of ~~The use of~~ the monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole substantially free from the (+) enantiomer or R-tenatoprazole~~, for the treatment of digestive diseases~~.

8. (Original) The use of the monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole for the manufacture of a medicinal product to treat digestive diseases where the inhibition of acid secretion must be effective and prolonged.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment according to claim 7, wherein the digestive diseases are selected from ~~The use of the monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole for the manufacture of a medicinal product to treat digestive diseases,~~ gastro-oesophageal reflux disease and digestive bleeding in polymedicamented patients.

10. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4, wherein the pharmaceutical composition exhibits ~~The use of the monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole for the manufacture of a medicinal product exhibiting~~ improved pharmacokinetic properties.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of preparation of the monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole according to claim 1, wherein sodium hydroxide is caused to react on S-tenatoprazole at a temperature ~~comprised~~ between 50 and 700°C, and the salt obtained is precipitated after elimination of the solvent.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein the reaction temperature is ~~of~~ about 600°C.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of~~ claim 11 ~~and 12~~, wherein the reaction is conducted in a solvent selected from the group consisting of ~~such as~~ water, chloroform, DMS0, ~~or a protic solvent, for example~~ methanol, ~~or~~ and ethanol.

14. (Original) An enantioselective method of preparation of the monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole, wherein an enantioselective oxidation is conducted on a sulphide of the following general formulation (I)

$$A — CH_2 — S — B \qquad (I)$$

where A is a 4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl group and B represents a 5-methoxy-imidazo[4, 5-b]pyridyl group,
using an oxidising agent in the presence of a vanadium based catalyst and a chiral ligand in a specific sulphide solvent and a specific ligand solvent, followed by salification by sodium hydroxide, in order to obtain the monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole.

15. (Currently Amended) A composition for oral administration of the monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole according to claim 1, ~~wherein it consists of~~ comprising a mixture of a diluent, a disintegrating agent and the monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole, being covered with an enteric film.

16. (Original) A composition according to claim 15, wherein the diluent is a cellulosic diluent.

17. (Original) A composition according to claim 16, wherein the diluent is an excipient for direct compression.

18. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 15, wherein the disintegrating agent is a cellulosic polymer~~, such as a cellulose carboxymethyl polymer~~.

19. (Original) A composition according to claim 18, wherein the disintegrating agent is sodium croscarmellose.

20. (New) A composition according to claim 18, wherein the cellulosic polymer is a cellulose carboxymethyl polymer.